

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,
23 Broony Hill,
Hereford.

(Phone : 2094.)

16th June 1966.

Dear Member,

The ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE this year is being held in WILTSHIRE for the first time - at LANGLEY BURRELL near Chippenham, where Francis Kilvert was Curate (to his father, the Rev. Robert Kilvert - Rector there from 1855 to 1879), both before and after his 7 years at Clyro.

It will be on SUNDAY the 3rd of JULY at 3 o'clock, and will be conducted by the Rev. E. H. Waddleton - who is Rector of St. Paul's Chippenham with Langley Burrell - and the ADDRESS will be given by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths, T.D., B.A., formerly Vicar of Llowes in Radnorshire, and Rural Dean of Hay. He is a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society.

The lessons will be read by Dr. William Plomer, the Editor of Kilvert's Diary, and by Mr. Daniel Awdry, T.D., who is M.P. for Chippenham.

During the Service a MEMORIAL TABLET in the PORCH of the CHURCH will be UNVEILED by Dr. Plomer and DEDICATED by the Rev. E. H. Waddleton. (see details of this in "Notes & News".)

Although St. Peter's Church at Langley Burrell will seat a considerable number, arrangements have been made (I am told) for extra chairs, and for the service to be relayed to any overflow in the churchyard. No doubt this first Kilvert Service in Wiltshire will bring a large congregation together.

Notices regarding a motor-coach from Hereford, car parking, tea after the service, a reading of extracts from the Diary by Dr. Plomer, and prizes for children from Langley Burrell Primary School, follow this letter.

Members who have not yet paid their current subscriptions are asked to remit them without delay to our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. D. Worsey at 1, Harold Street, Hereford, or to me at the above address.

Yours faithfully,

C. T. O. Prosser

(C.T.O. Prosser)

Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

THE KILVERT MEMORIAL TABLET - It is good to think that this is to be unveiled and dedicated during the Commemoration Service on July 3rd, and that then each church that Francis Kilvert served will have its memorial to him. This one will be not only pleasing, but most useful to visitors to the ancient church of St. Peter at Langley Burrell. In the centre will be a plan of the church, partly in colours; on each side details of its history and associations (one being that Samuel Ashe bought Langley in 1655, and another that Robert Kilvert was Vicar from 1855 to 1879) and the bottom portion states that it is in memory of the Rev. R.F. Kilvert - The Diarist - with date and place of his birth and his death; dates of his two periods as Curate of Langley Burrell, and ending with those prophetic words that are on his tombstone in Bredwardine churchyard - "He being dead yet speaketh." This tablet will be in bronze, and the Bristol firm doing the work have promised that (barring some disaster) it will be completed and erected in time. Great credit is due to Mr. Waddleton and the P.C.C. (among them several of our members) for their efforts in getting this memorial project along through all its stages, and much credit and thanks are also due to Mr. Greenslade, the Curate, who is also an Architect; his drawing of the tablet for the Diocesan Advisory Committee without doubt greatly helped towards not only a favourable decision but their praise for the tablet. It has all been rather rushed, so that this Memorial to Francis Kilvert would be fixed in time for the coming Commemoration Service, so that only those members of the Committee who live in Hereford were able to see and study the drawing when it was sent here just prior to going before the Diocesan Committee, but as only 2 are from outside Hereford it is felt that it was fully approved. All who saw it thought it to be a very fine effort, as will - I am sure - the great numbers who will see it over the years to come. It is not generally realised how many visit the churches at Bredwardine and Clyro each year, some from very far away - and many who are not known to us in any way. No doubt in the same way there are numerous visitors to Langley Burrell who come and go unobserved.

The total cost of this tablet and all the incidentals connected with it will be over £60. Only about half has as yet been subscribed. But I am of the opinion that now it can be announced that all is arranged for its unveiling and dedication on Sunday, July 3rd, that very many will want to send their donations towards it. Contributions both large and small will be gratefully received - please send them either to Mrs. E. Peters (our Assistant Hon. Treasurer) at 18, Moor Farm Lane, Hereford, or to Miss P. A. Elms at 16, Chippenham Road, Langley Burrell, Chippenham, Wilts (she is Church Secretary - and a member of the Kilvert Society). Receipts will not be sent unless specially requested.

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MOTOR-COACH from HEREFORD..... a "Wye Valley" coach will start from the Town Hall (in St. Owen Street) Hereford on Sunday the 3rd of July at 10 a.m. Please be there in good time so that we can get away promptly and have time to spare at the other end, and be able to see a little of the countryside etc around Langley Burrell. The fare will be 10/- each (including gratuities). We shall travel via Ledbury, in order to pick up members there. It is a nice run whichever way we go after Ledbury: the return journey will probably be by a different route.

Please bring a picnic lunch; a stop will be made at a suitable place for this to be eaten. Members should also bring their eatables for TEA: this will be in the Village Hall at Langley Burrell, immediately after the service; there will be cups of tea for everyone - very kindly provided by Langley Burrell Church Committee.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SEATS ON THE COACH ARE BOOKED VERY SOON, PREFERABLY IMMEDIATELY YOU GET THIS NEWSLETTER. A 41-SEATER COACH HAS BEEN ENGAGED AND WHEN FULL, BOOKING WILL HAVE TO CEASE. IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF PAYMENT IS MADE AT TIME OF BOOKING. PLEASE EITHER SEND TO ME AT 23 BROOMY HILL, HEREFORD, OR BOOK AT WYEEVAL LTD. BRIDGE STREET, HEREFORD.

PARKING AT LANGLEY BURRELL - Cars will be parked in a field near the church. Someone will be at hand to give directions re parking. Major Scott-Ashe is very kindly allowing the COACH to park in the drive of Langley House.

I am sure that everyone will be extremely pleased to know that Dr. William Plomer is coming to this Commemoration Service, and is going to unveil the MEMORIAL to Francis Kilvert. We all must be aware of his THREE YEARS work (nearly 30 years

ago now) in editing Kilvert's Diary, and of the great interest that he has taken in the Society and everything connected with it ever since he helped to launch it at Hereford Town Hall in 1948. He has attended a good many of our Annual Commemoration Services, and added to these occasions by often reading a lesson; and then by giving a reading of extracts from the Diary later on in the day - latterly in the open air - to the enjoyment of a large number of people - members and friends. This year Dr. Plomer has kindly consented to do this again. The readings will be in the Village Hall at Langley Burrell if wet, but nearby - in the open air - if the weather is kind: chairs can then be carried out from the Hall when tea is over. Many of us know the parts of the Diary that deal with Bredwardine and Clyro etc better than the Wiltshire portions - where there are some splendid descriptions of people, places, and events around the Chippenham district (the wedding at Langley Burrell on New Year's Day 1873, for example) and so much of interest about the whole area. I shall expect Dr. Plomer will include some extracts about Wiltshire in his readings.

The competition for an essay on something connected with Kilvert or the Diary or the countryside that started last year for the children of Clyro Primary School was so successful and aroused so much interest that we have decided to offer this sort of thing each year to the school for the area in which the Commemoration Service is held. Consequently it was offered for the children of Langley Burrell Primary School this year, but as the decision to make this an annual event was only taken at the Committee Meeting of March 29th, the notice was rather short. The Headmistress (Mrs. M. Burnard) tells me that a number of the children are visiting the church and are producing booklets about it, with their own illustrations and descriptions. These will be judged by the Rev. Mr. Greenslade (the Curate) as entries for the competition. We are happy to give book tokens to those he places 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and if the children winning them can come along to the Village Hall after tea on July 3rd Dr. William Plomer will hand them their prizes.

Our Wiltshire membership is steadily increasing; 3 more in the last few weeks. Among these we welcome Colonel E. P. Awdry of Chippenham; for the Awdry family figure so largely in the Diary. It has been decided to make him a Vice-President and we are most pleased that he has accepted this. We are equally glad that Mr. Daniel Awdry, T.D., the Member of Parliament for Chippenham (a son of Colonel E. P. Awdry) is reading one of the lessons at the service.

The A.G.M. and Social Evening was on Friday the 29th April. It was well attended and the usual happy evening. As in other years a number had come considerable distances (Bristol and Birmingham, and our lady member from Aberdovey was among those from furthest away). After the business part of the meeting was over, we had a mixed programme. Our Worcestershire member the Rev. David Lockwood read his paper on "Why I am a Kilvertian", and very good it was. Our Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. D. Worsey) read the letters of Mr. Venables and of Francis Kilvert; photostats of both are now on sale to members. Our Breconshire member, Mr. D. J. H. Lewis of Llandefalle School then read a number of extracts from Kilvert's Diary, all referring to places in the Builth Wells area, and the vote taken afterwards was overwhelmingly in favour of a motor coach tour to these places on a Saturday afternoon in the near future. After the break for refreshments - served by lady members, and provided by the President (Mrs. Wright), Miss M. Mantle (Clyro School) gave a most interesting talk on the Clyro district, and in particular of the results of investigations by herself and Miss K. Powell into the places of the Diary, whether standing today or disappeared. Another Worcestershire member, Canon Leatherbarrow, spoke on a recent visit to Hardenhuish and the lack of any indication there that it was Kilvert's birthplace; and the evening ended with a tape-recording of the programme "Kilvert of Clyro", put out by the B.B.C. on the afternoon of the Centenary Service last June, when a number of members and others took part: it had, of course, been pre-recorded. During the evening Mr. E. Jelfs of Birmingham proposed that flowers and good wishes should be sent to Mrs Wright, prevented by infirmity from being present: this was duly carried out and a warm message of thanks received from her.----- Again this year, the Chair was taken by our Vice-President the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths and at the start he had called for the company to stand in silence in memory of those who had died during the year, and it was with deep regret that we heard that the Rev. Trevor Morgans of Stoulton near Pershore had died very recently, just after we had heard what we thought was better news of him: we had hoped to have heard much from him of his early days at Whitney-on-Wye, and of the old folks he knew who remembered Kilvert: now all that we can hope for is that his sister can in due course glean

something from his notes: this, she tells me, is what she will try to do. We also heard, with much regret, of the death of Mrs. Newman of Bishops Castle (Shropshire) - quite suddenly after coming out from the Orthopaedic Hospital much improved, and now I hear that Mr. Newman went into Hospital at Sutton Coldfield for a serious operation; so far I can get no further news of him. Those of us who, over the years, have gone walking in the Radnorshire Hills - so often with Mr. and Mrs. Newman as part of the company - will be sad at her death, and will want to send their best wishes to Mr. Newman for a speedy recovery, and in this we shall be joined by a very wide circle of members, for Mr. and Mrs. Newman have rarely missed any activity of the Society through the years since its formation. From Wiltshire I hear that Mrs. Harding of Chippenham is at home, but still on crutches and not yet able to put her leg to the ground: nevertheless, she very much hopes to come to Langley Burrell Church on July 3rd and we hope that she will get there all right - Mr. Harding is one of the Churchwardens. Both came up to the Centenary Service at Clyro last June, with others from Chippenham way. Now for news of Mr. W. H. Ellis, who was convalescing after an operation when the April "Notes" came out. I was in his company a few days ago; we were both in a party touring down into Carmarthenshire, and am glad to report that he seemed quite his old self again, after a holiday in the Scilly Isles.

LANGLEY BURRELL - July 3rd 1966

It is expected that members and friends will come from all directions; a number are coming from the London area, and little parties from Birmingham and other parts of Warwickshire, from the Cotswolds, Bristol, Bath, and a few from Somerset, Dorset, and Devon; one or two from Hampshire; some of our Worcestershire members no doubt; and the coach party from Hereford will be joined by several from Hay and Clyro - with others from that way coming in their own cars. So many have been to Langley Burrell at one time or another that it is almost superfluous to give any directions, except perhaps to say that Langley Burrell church is not in the village, but is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles out of Chippenham on the A.420 (Chippenham to Swindon) and in the trees, not easily seen from the road, on the left as one proceeds towards Chippenham - there will no doubt be indications and activity near it on the day. The road through the village (and the Hall is in the village) is the B.4279, which turns off the A.420 between Chippenham and the church.

I recently asked one of our Wiltshire members about descendants of folk mentioned in the Diary, and particularly enquired if there were any Jefferies still around (this query was inspired by our visit to Builth last month when we were reminded of Kilvert's visit to the Venables at Llysdyman in August 1873, when he took with him from Langley Burrell, Annie Jefferies, as a maid for Mrs. Venables). The answer came that there are several members of the Jefferies family in the village and that the tenant of the village inn (the Brewery Arms) is Dick Jefferies and that his elder brother Harry was there before him.

I also enquired about "The Ivy" - for we read of Kilvert going there to Dances and then on the 7th January 1873 at a "jolly party" at Sir John Awdry's at Notton House dancing with "dear little Francie Rooke" and with "Mary Rooke of the Ivy". Our local member tells me that "The Ivy" is an attractive large house off the main Bath Road only a few yards from Chippenham Bridge, and that members of the Rooke family still live there.

With his letter came a nice little guide to the district; the piece about Langley Burrell tells of the 300 odd years that the Ashe family have lived at Langley House and been Lords of the Manor, speaks of the ancient church, with priests' room above the porch; and of course, about Maud Heath the market woman of Langley Burrell of the 15th century, who caused the raised causeway bearing her name, which is the feature of the district today, to be made, enabling travellers to avoid the Avon floods; there is a splendid section of sixty arches near Kellaways Bridge, it ran for five miles, from Chippenham through Langley to Wick Hill; there are monuments to her there and at Kellaways; the Diary tells us of Kilvert walking "on Maud Heath" in several places. Hardenhuish (says the guide) was once a parish in its own right, now partly in Chippenham and partly in Langley Burrell. Hardenhuish church is unlike any other in Wiltshire. Built in 1781 by John Wood and his son John, the celebrated builders of the Circle and Terraces of Bath. It has been described as "a little piece of Bath away from home".

Any interesting details about people and places in the Chippenham district from any of our Wiltshire members would be appreciated, and published in the next number of these "Notes & News"; for so many members are so interested in such details and write me appreciative letters when I circulate that sort of information.

MONNINGTON-ON-WYE Following the mention of the Lych-Gate Repair Fund in the April number of these "Notes", quite a few members sent in donations towards it, and now nearly £15 altogether has been sent from the Kilvert Society to Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas for the Lych-Gate Fund. I was at Monnington a week or so ago, and saw it, nearly finished, and looking very nice, and so very much as I have always known it; after it has weathered a little it will look better than it has done for very many years; for even in Kilvert's time he described it as "the old mouldering lych-gate" (see pages 264-265 of Vol. 3).

It was also mentioned that suggestions had been received from time to time that it would be very fitting if a Kilvert Service could be held some time at Monnington, but that the problem about this is the smallness of the church - it seats about 90, and with extra chairs maybe 120 or so.

WE ARE NOW TRYING TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL SERVICE IN THE AUTUMN OF THIS YEAR: PROBABLY IN EARLY OCTOBER. The Rector (the Rev. G. J. T. Jones-Evans) who is also Rector of Staunton-on-Wye, Letton, and Byford, is a member of the Kilvert Society and he is very pleased with the idea and it is therefore most likely that this special event will take place in early October. NO FURTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT OUT, SO WILL MEMBERS WISHING TO COME TO MONNINGTON PLEASE WRITE TO ME, ANYTIME DURING AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER, FOR CONFIRMATION, AND THE EXACT DATE. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING CAN BE ANNOUNCED AT LANGLEY BURRELL ON JULY 3rd. If this special service takes place as hoped for it will surely be just at the right time - a commemoration of Kilvert's close connection with Monnington-on-Wye just after both church and lych-gate have been so beautifully restored.

Photographs of Monnington Church and lych-gate are available now - see enclosed list.

Coach Tour to the Builth Wells district - This proved to be very popular, and about 50 members came, by coach and in cars. The final vote at the A.G.M. was for Saturday, the 7th of May, and we had a fine sunny day. Starting from Hereford in the early afternoon we picked up a number of members en route to Hay, and several there - including the Sussex member whose account of her week's holiday there can be read on another page. The weather was very kind, warm and sunny and visibility very good. The valley of the Wye from Hay to Builth looked most attractive. First stop was at Llanleonfell, some seven miles beyond Builth, to visit the little church on the hill (re-built since Kilvert saw it in ruins). Back into Builth for an excellent tea at the Cae Ffynnon Cafe, and then out in another direction, first to Disserth - to the old church where Kilvert may well have become the Vicar, but went to St. Harmons instead; from there to Newbridge-on-Wye to see the Venables tablets in the church, and Llysddinam across the river from it, ending with the lovely run back through Builth and right down the Wye to Hereford again. (It has now been suggested by several members that at the next A.G.M. a coach tour is arranged to take place a week or so after it - an excellent idea). The "Brecon and Radnor Express" published in full the detailed account of the above coach tour - they also had a good account of the A.G.M., and no doubt they will print an equally good account of the forthcoming service etc. at Langley Burrell. We shall have a quantity of reprints done, the three on one sheet. Members who would like to have one are invited to write to me requesting same. For those who would like to look up what Kilvert has to say about the places visited the references are:-

Llanleonfel ... p.362-363 in Volume 2. (p. 223-224 in abridged edition)

Disserth... p. 376 in Volume 1. (p.134-135 in abridged edition)

Llysddinam ... p. 278-279 in Vol. 2. (not in abridged edition)

There are also many references to Builth, Llysddinam, Aberedw etc. in the Diary.

In the April "Notes & News" there was an appeal to any member who took photographs at the CENTENARY SERVICE at CLYRO last June (especially of the children being presented with their prizes by Dr. Plomer) to contact me at 23 Broomy Hill, Hereford. I regret that I have had no response. Surely someone took photographs of this (and other) happenings that day? Several members (including the Vicar of Clyro) are anxious to get copies of any such photographs.

Also, has any member a photograph of any of the railway stations (now mostly dismantled) that Kilvert used so often; preferably with a train in the picture, and the nearer to the Kilvert period the better. All that I have (so far) are the stations at Whitney-on-Wye and Hay-on-Wye, both taken a good many years ago and each with a train at or near the platform. If any member can get the loan of such pictures of Three Cocks, St. Harmons and the like - in fact any that are frequently mentioned in the Diary - we would like to make copies of them. Please write to the Hon. Sec. (address as above).

Notice was given in the April issue of these "Notes" that the 1967 Kilvert Commemoration Service is to be at LLANBEDR (or Llanbedr Painscastle) in Radnorshire. Some of our members have during recent months visited each of the 4 churches that are in the care of the Rev. D. Brian James of The Rectory, Rhosgoch, and they are all looking very smart and fresh after decorations etc. In fact at Newchurch the other day we found Mr. James and some of his parishioners hard at work doing a stint themselves; quite a lot of it has been done in this way, I understand. The 1952 Kilvert Service was at Newchurch, hurriedly arranged when peculiar circumstances caused us to abandon the idea of having that year's service at Clyro, as was being arranged. This was in the time of a former Vicar of Clyro, long before our Vice-President, the Rev. T. J. Lewis came to Clyro. Prior to 1952 the Society had no thoughts other than services each year at Bredwardine, Clyro and St. Harmons; going to Newchurch in 1952 caused us to break with this idea - a good thing - for they would have got "stale" at the same church every third year; and we have since had the Annual Service in many different churches, but all with some connection with Kilvert. The 1961 Kilvert Service was at Bryngwyn, and was the occasion of making the presentation of an Album of Photographs to Dean Hedley Burrows after he had preached there and before his departure from Hereford. At Newchurch the other day a little brass tablet in the church, to the memory of a former Churchwarden, reminded me that it was he - a solid old Radnorshire farmer - who said after the 1952 service there that "he had never seen a larger or a more respectable congregation than was there that day". The sub-committee, on hearing of this work going on at these 4 Radnorshire churches decided to send a small cheque to the Rev. Brian James, and this has been done. £5 will not go far between 4 churches but even a trifle like this must help.

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A new member who lives in Sussex spent a week in Hay-on-Wye in early May - her first visit to the "Kilvert Country"; she did a lot of walking, had some wet days interspersed between the gloriously sunny ones she enjoyed; joined us on the coach tour to the Builth Wells district (referred to elsewhere in these Notes) and wrote this account of her holiday for us upon her return to her home. It may prove very helpful to others who are contemplating just such a week in Kilvert's countryside..... "As a complete newcomer to the Clyro district, I have been asked to give ideas to others who also come for the first time and, like me, have no car. (I should make it clear that I am a woman of 68, younger people could of course walk further than my usual 6 to 7 miles a day). I stayed in Hay rather than in beloved Clyro because of the much greater choice of buses there, and became very fond of this nice little town. Our Hon. Sec. had kindly provided me beforehand with Time Tables; this was an enormous help as they are rather complicated for a stranger, there being three different companies (Midland Red, Red & White, Western Welsh). Moreover, most of them do not run at the same times every day, so it is easy to get "caught out". It is advisable to get these leaflets beforehand, so that you can be forewarned and work out routes with your maps (see footnote) before you come. It is rather fun doing this. It is unfortunate that the railways Kilvert used so much have been closed and removed; this means that there is no way (for a car-less person) to follow the Wye Valley up to Builth and beyond; for I could not find that any bus runs this lovely road and was very lucky in being able to join the Society's coach excursion to this region on the Saturday of my stay in Hay. In common with most folk who have read the Diary before knowing the countryside I was fearful lest all would be spoiled, as with so many parts today. I was delightfully surprised. My only regret was the rush of traffic along the A.4153 (luckily it by-passes Clyro) and walking along this beautiful road is rather unpleasant. Everywhere else walking was sheer delight, so many footpaths and winding flowery lanes with the same distant views that struck Kilvert with their ever-changing colour & shadows. The country people too, were so friendly and helpful and pleased to see you. My week passed all too quickly; this is what I did. Friday - a wet morning, but full of interest at the Pony Market at Hay. In the afternoon walked the mile and a quarter to Clyro and explored the village. Saturday - a sunny day, took the riverside walk beyond Hay church, to the Warren, from where one looks across to Wyecliff, high on the other bank. In the afternoon the coach excursion with other members of the Society to the Upper Wye Valley, all very lovely. Sunday - a wet morning, to Hay Church. Later on walked the 2 miles to Llanigon, passing the drive gate to the site of Llanthomas and up to the quaint old church under the foothills of the Black Mountains, a rather touching peace. Monday - a glorious day after yesterday's rain. Bus (Red & White) to Dorstone in the Golden Valley, walked over the hill to Bredwardine; incredibly lovely in its fruit blossom framework; fine bridge over the curving Wye, with the Old Vicarage snowy white overlooking it (I don't wonder F.K.'s parents were delighted). I much admired the memorial seat. Church and churchyard full of Kilvert interest. Then up the steep lane beside the Inn (the Red Lion, little altered since Kilvert's days in Bredwardine) to Crafta Webb and along the

high ridge past Arthurs Stone. What a delightful walk; the views include Moccas and Brobury, the Scar Rocks on the Wye and much beside. Then down to Dorstone for the bus back to Hay (the Midland Red bus direct from Hay to Bredwardine runs only on Thursdays and Saturdays, and then almost impossible to fit in a reasonable return; this is why the much better service to Dorstone was taken) Tuesday - another glorious day, took a taxi (very reasonable, from one of Hay's garages) up into the Black Mountains, nearly 9 miles over the Gospel Pass to Capel-y-Ffin. It waited while I visited the four different buildings that make the spot so fascinating; the ruined monastery church with Father Ignatius' crumbling tomb; the little monastery cloister; the charming little parish church (still "squatting like a stout grey owl among its seven great black yews" - as Kilvert so aptly described it); and the pretty non-conformist chapel - an unusual group in an entrancing dell. I could have stayed all day, but the car was waiting and I did not want to walk the entire way back. At the Youth Hostel gate, on the upper slopes a mile or two back from Capel-y-Ffin I dismissed the car and walked towards the Gospel Pass, from there climbing Hay Buff (Pen-y-Beacon on map) for the views of the Wye Valley and the Radnorshire Hills beyond, then downhill for some miles towards Hay, till I could cross the Dulas Brook by a farm-bridge into Cusop Dingle and home that lovely way. Wednesday - by bus (Western Welsh) to Brecon in the rain, saw the interesting little Cathedral, after lunch in the nice old town the rain ceased and on my return to Hay visited Mouse Castle on its wooded hill -- the view that greeted me every morning as I woke in the excellent guest-house where I stayed in Hay -- how perfectly Kilvert describes how to get up there, and how unchanged it really is! The walk as in the Diary in in every detail the same today; except that the man romping with his children did not materialize!! Thursday - by bus (Midland Red) to the old Rhydspence Inn and walked up the hill to Bettws Chapel - a much more interesting building than I had imagined, still rising from the waving field of grass as described in the Diary. A big Bible has Mr Venables signature in it to this day. I walked back down to Clyro by the high, flowery little lanes and passed several farms and cottages mentioned by Kilvert (including Pen-y-Cae where Gipsy Lizzie lived); then back to Hay by Boatside Farm lane. In Clyro I had an ivy leaf ready to put in the keyhole of the house of a member I had met on the coach, but found her at home. Friday - lazed by the river, watching birds and hares - before starting my return journey, after my first visit to Kilvert's countryside. I shall certainly return, for I want to go up the hills on the Painscastle side of Clyro and also visit Moccas, Brobury, Snodhill and many other such places--which I now know I shall find as unspoiled and unaltered as those I saw this time. I would like to make it clear that I nearly always carried my lunch with me so that I could dawdle and do as I pleased. At times I wore Wellingtons so as to walk exactly where I wanted to go; though they were not absolutely necessary anywhere."

Note re maps... our member used the Ordnance Survey 1" to the mile, numbers 141 and 142. Anyone wanting fuller details should get the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Ordnance Survey maps numbered SO.14 and SO.24 for Hay, Clyro and Painscastle; and SO.23 for the Black Mountains & Capel-y-Ffin. There is also SO.34 for those wishing to fully cover Bredwardine, Brobury, Dorstone, Moccas and Monnington-on-Wye etc. (to help the enthusiast who wants to come and walk a lot and find the farms and cottages of the Diary and the odd corners that the casual visitor never finds, and would like to mark his maps to tie up with the Diary - I can arrange to help him in this, if asked to do so.....Hon. Sec.)

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Some other new members (from Portsmouth) are on their first visit to the Clyro district as I am writing these Notes. They are staying for a week at a farm on the Clyro Hill; and they too have promised to write their impressions after returning home. Although it will be next March or April before they get circulated around our members, they should prove very interesting; for these Portsmouth members - as with many others living a distance away from this Welsh borderland - have come with little idea of what it is all really like, and are not at all sure (despite my re-assurances) but that they will find so much of it spoiled and utterly unlike the scenes described in the Diary, or of the picture of it all that they have formed in their minds from reading it. Indeed, they confessed to me in a letter when they first let me know that they contemplated this holiday that until they bought a set of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " scale maps and on them saw the names of farms and places generally as in the Diary, these very names had seemed so odd and unreal that they had sometimes wondered if the area was wholly an imaginary one and the Diary a figment of Kilvert's dreams!!! This is something that we who live here and are so used to all the place-names of the Diary and who know where most of them are - have not thought of before; but, on reflection, must agree do sound odd to folk

who live on the South Coast and have never visited these parts. Names like Wernfawr, Wernog, Noyadde, Moity, Rhosgoch, Llwyn Gwilyn, Cae-nawr, Cwnbyddog, and many many more. It will be most interesting to read our Portsmouth members "impressions" after spending a week among them!!

Abbeydore Festival - The brochures which our member Mr Donald Gowing intended letting me have, and for which in my April "Notes" I invited members to send me a stamped envelope - have been unavoidably delayed, but Mr Gowing now tells me that the printers have definitely promised delivery of them for mid-June. He therefore proposes to send me a batch of several hundred, and they should arrive just in time for me to include one in every envelope going out to members now; this will be done, providing that they come to hand whilst these "Notes" are being duplicated. The Festival is to be on September 16th, 17th & 18th, and Mr. Gowing tells me that a wonderful programme has been arranged.

The Society lost a valued member when Mr. T. A. Matthews - the well known Hereford solicitor - died in 1955. He and Mrs. Matthews were among that band of founder-members back in 1948. A little while ago Mrs. Matthews told me a childhood memory that will surely interest members generally. She would go with her mother to put flowers on the family graves in Bredwardine churchyard, and recalls that her mother would then go round to the other side of the churchyard and put flowers on another grave. She would ask "Whose grave is this, and why do you put flowers on it?" and her mother would tell her that it was the grave of a very nice clergyman who was Vicar there and who died quite suddenly whilst still young, and that she liked to flower his grave. No need to name him is there? Mrs. Matthews' grandfather was "my churchwarden" - as Kilvert refers to him on page 345 of Volume 3, and goes on to describe him as "handsome grey-haired, grey-eyed" and "taking off his hat with a profound and courteous bow" and wishing Kilvert "the compliments of the season" - for this was on New Year's Day 1878. There are more references to him further on in the 3rd volume; and on page 445 we read that on December 29th 1878 during the great frost of that time "Jane Davies of Fine Street confessed to Dora that she had to crawl across the Lion square on her hands and knees".... and it was she who became Mrs. Matthews' mother.

Among the considerable number of new members of the last few months is one though living in London is of the Clutterbuck family of Hardenhuish (the mansion in the Park that can be seen out of Harnish churchyard - now Chippenham Grammar School).. The Clutterbuck family appear several times in the Diary and there is even more about them in Mrs. Wyndowe's "Rambling Recollections". One of their ancestors was David Ricardo; his tomb is in Harnish churchyard, and a most striking one it is, with fluted columns supporting a canopy, under it a group of mourning maidens. On page 75 of the 3rd volume Kilvert quotes someone's story that although a very costly monument all was not genuine marble and realising that the deception would be discovered the sculptor destroyed himself. Our new member (Mr. Weatherall) tells me that he has made arrangements for the restoration of this Memorial, the cost being shared by descendants of David Ricardo "plus a magnificent grant from the Royal Economic Society" and that this should be accomplished before the end of the summer. Each time that I have been in Hardenhuish churchyard and looked at this monument I have wondered why it has survived at all if the story of the composition instead of marble was a true one. Mr. Weatherall now tells me that Kilvert was wrongly informed, for he has been assured by the Monumental Masons that the mourning maidens are not only marble but that, as in Alice, it is the best marble, and that the structure of the Memorial turns out to be Portland Stone! It was true that the sculptor took his own life, but for reasons unconnected with the memorial. Mr. Weatherall comments that it is only fair to say that Kilvert was only recording what someone else had told him, about events that had taken place fifty years earlier. No doubt many who attend the Kilvert Commemoration Service at Langley Burrell on July 3rd will also visit Hardenhuish Church and will then see this Ricardo Memorial.

(From Pears Cyclopaedia, under "Prominent People".... David Ricardo 1772-1823, a celebrated English political economist of Hebrew descent, whose "Principles of Political Economy" gained him a high place among the exponents of that science.

When Dr. William Plomer came to Hereford for the weekend of the Centenary Service at Clyro last June he brought with him a catalogue of a St. Albans bookseller; one of the books listed in it will interest members. It is a work in Latin, in morocco gilt, printed in 1828; but the inscription in it is the interesting feature to us, rather than the book itself. The bookseller obviously realised this when compiling his catalogue, for he heads the description of the book with-- "The Diarist's schoolboy signature - Kilvert association", followed by these lines: Inscribed on end paper "To the Revd. F. Kilvert, a birthday present, March 29th 1851 from his affectionate pupils" (here follow the signatures of 17 boys, the eighth in order being F. Kilvert".) The Rev. Francis Kilvert, the antiquary, kept a pupil establishment at Bathwick adjoining Claverton. F. Kilvert must be the then eleven year old schoolboy and future diarist attending his uncle's school. His home was at Hardenhuish near Chippenham 8 miles away, and it would be perfectly natural for him to attend his uncle's school rather than that kept by his father Robert Kilvert. William Plomer in his introduction to the Diary, Vol. 1, pp.9-10 merely states "as far as is known was educated privately, he then went up to Wadham". There can hardly have been another F. Kilvert of schoolboy age; the antiquary Francis Kilvert had only three daughters. On another flyleaf is the signature of H. M. Scarth 1870 with his note that it was purchased at the sale of Mrs. Kilvert's effects March 1870. All in all, a most interesting association, which perhaps lights up - if only slenderly, the previous doubt and obscurity about the future diarist's early years.

But WE can add to the above lines of the bookseller.....
The introduction to Volume 3 of the Diary seems to leave one with the impression that Francis Kilvert received his earliest education at his father's school at Hardenhuish Rectory; and in "Rambling Recollections" of his sister Emily (Mrs Wyndowe)---her childhood memories---this is also suggested. Perhaps it was that after a spell at his father's school the young Francis then went to that of his uncle at Bathwick.

The family tree of the Kilvert's tells us that the Rev. Francis Kilvert was born in 1793 and died in 1863 and that it was he who edited "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Rt. Rev. Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester", and that he married Sophia de Chievre. We can learn from "Rambling Recollections" that she was French and had been brought over from France in an open boat as a little child during the Reign of Terror and that the others of her family who remained were guillotined. There were 3 daughters of the marriage and one of these married Colonel Montague Chomeley of the Indian Army. It was his daughter whose wedding Kilvert attended (at Findon in Sussex) on 11th August 1874 when he fell in love with one of the bridesmaids - he referred to her as "Kathleen Mavourneen". The bride was "given away" by her brother Montague Chomeley, whose daughter is our Vice-President Mrs. E. M. Victor of Hereford - and thus the story is brought right up-to-date.

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A letter recently received from a lady living in Devon (not a member of the Society) brings to mind the truth of the old saying "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing". In my last "Notes" I dealt with the wild statements of the Rev. Mr. Fenn of Glascoen (Rads) - which perhaps arose from lack of an intimate knowledge of the Diary. The lady from Devon writes "Having just read the three Volumes of Kilvert's Diary I am interested to know the true facts about Emma Kilvert. In the Diary Kilvert says that "Emma Kilvert died in Widcombe, Bath in 1878".... I wrote to Bath to find out where she would have been buried, suggesting that it would most likely be the tiny churchyard of St Thomas-a-Beckett at the top of Widcombe Hill. Bath replied that their Registrar had no record at all of any Emma Kilvert having died in Widcombe!! I therefore ask.. is what Kilvert says in his Diary correct or not?"

..... In my reply I pointed out to this lady that if she looked up the references to Emma Kilvert in the Index she would find that Vol. 2, page 54, and also page 399 tell us that she was in Dr. Fox's Mental Establishment at Brislington, Bristol. Then in Vol. 3 we read of Kilvert and his Father paying a visit to Aunt Emma at this same establishment in Bristol - pages 103-4-5. Her death is recorded on page 445; it occurred on 29th December 1878 and Kilvert writes "the poor darkened restless brain is at rest now," and on page 447 Kilvert states that "today Aunt Emma was buried by Uncle Edward in the Widcombe Cemetery, Bath." So she died in Bristol but was buried in Bath, that is why the Bath Registrar had no record of her death. Just one word makes all the difference, and this good lady in Devon would probably have thrown the Diary on one side as unreliable and dubbed poor Kilvert as a "fibber" through her own carelessness in reading what he wrote, had I not been able to write back straight away and give her the true version. It is really incredible that anyone should go so far as to write to the Registrar at Bath without making quite sure that their facts are absolutely correct before so doing.

But that is not all - far from it - for in the same letter this lady also poses this query..... "Having also read in the Diary that he (Kilvert) went to a fair somewhere and not only saw, but spoke with a woman who was only 4 inches high ! That statement I must confess took away my otherwise absorbing interest in all I had otherwise read in the Diary of 3 Volumes and, up to that point, believed to be true. What is the explanation of this second point please?"..... Now, I thought that I knew the Diary pretty well, but had no recollection at all of this entry, about a woman only 4 inches high, and I spent most of a weekend wading through it all, trying to find something relevant to it - without success. I then typed out this extract from her letter and sent it to a member who is a master at a well known school, for I knew that not only does he know the Diary really thoroughly but that he would also seek diligently for any such reference. His reply came as I was starting this sheet. He says "she does not occur, and does not exist. You can take it from me that Kilvert's conversation with a lady four inches high is a figment of another lady's imagination, and you can quote me as saying so! Where can she have dreamed up this non-existent passage? From some other book perhaps - or perhaps her memory is playing her false?" It is good to get such confirmation from such a keen Kilvert member as this. Has any other member any suggestion as to where this lady in Devon got her ideas from? What next, I wonder? Truly I never know what the post is going to bring me!!!

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A few weeks ago I had an interesting little note enclosed with a letter from Mr. William Plomer. In it he tells me that quite recently he saw an American book in which was a reproduction of the drawing of "The Moccas Park Oak" and a statement saying that it was from: Sylva Britannica; or Portraits of Forest Trees, distinguished for their Antiquity, Magnitude, or Beauty--By J. G. Strutt, London. 1830, together with some extracts from Kilvert's Diary.

More recently Dr. Plomer passed on to me a very odd letter that he had received from the U.S.A.---- from someone in Virginia who has been making an analysis of Kilvert's Diary. He has divided it up into 20 categories, but can now see the need for twenty-one!! These he summarises under headings such as: HISTORY. DATES. QUAIN WORDS. FACIAL EXPRESSIONS. NICKNAMES. SUPERSTITIONS. WEATHER. THE AUTHOR'S GOODNESS. GORY STORIES. WORD PICTURES. ANIMALS, etc, etc. All very odd, I think. But what is the purpose of it? That's the question.

He goes on "Now, using inimitability as the sole yardstick of classicism, we see that Kilvert wins on four categories:

HISTORY. FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.. THE AUTHOR'S GOODNESS. WORD PICTURES.

He places on two:

EXTENSIVENESS OF VOCABULARY. DATES -

and he shows on nine

(and here he lists nine)

And our American friend sums it all up with

"So, his elusiveness is not only due to his manysidedness, but also to the fact that his near-misses is nevertheless high enough that his near-misses divert attention from his bullseyes!"

So now you know!!

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